

*American*  
*Caledonia, or, the Jansen*  
**A LETTER** *Mr W*

*From a* GENTLEMAN at London to his  
FRIEND at Edinburgh.

*L 8/10/70*  
SIR,

**I** Am inform'd that those, who in the last Meeting of our Parliament appear'd for the Interest of the Country, have taken a Resolution to begin the ensuing Session with an Act declaring the Nations Right to *Caledonia*; which I presume to be a very wrong Step, and such as will prove of very bad consequence. I suppose, the great Argument that has been offer'd for this Method, is, that nothing will more Unite the Members of Parliament, than the sensible Injury done to the Nation by the Destruction of that Colony. But, I hope, that upon better consideration Men of Honesty and good Intentions will not suffer themselves to be led into such a Mistake. For a Declaration of our right to *Caledonia* can do no real good to the Nation at this time: But the disbanding of the Army will. If they would be even with those who have ruin'd our Colony, they can never do it any way effectually, but by breaking the Army. They are now to chuse upon which of these two Heads they will again break with the Court; for in my Opinion neither of them will be granted. But if it should be thought convenient to yield to either of these Propositions, 'twill certainly be to that of disbanding the Army, on Account of the Interest the Parliament of *England* might take in it, and perhaps second it for their own Security. Whereas the declaring our Right to *Caledonia* will (how unjustly soever) be attributed to meer pique and humour, because of no present Advantage to the Nation; and will sound ridiculously among our Neighbors, where our Weakness, and ill Conduct in that Affair has but too much expos'd us. So that the Court can never desire a fairer pretence to vindicate themselves both to the *English* and *Dutch*, then to break up our Parliament upon such an Account. And we who are crush'd by a Power which we are no way able to resist, ought to have great regard to such things as may engage all Men of good Intentions in those Countries to be our Friends; and not continue

to mistake what is done in both by the Court Party, as proceeding from the Nations themselves. Besides, till the Army be disbanded, there is not the least probability of obtaining Money from the publick, for carrying on the Trade of the Company. We must have lost our senses, if we do not see that a quarrel with us is industriously sought, that a pretence may be found to keep up an Army. And if the Court Party should prevail in the Parliament of *England*, who knows, how far our insisting upon the Business of *Caledonia*, without any prospect of present good to the Nation, might be made a handle to excite that Nation against us? I cannot but think there's just ground to suspect the Conduct of those who by all means would push the Affair of the Colony at so unseasonable a time. We don't abandon our Rights and Privileges in this point, because we think fit in the first place to enter upon another Affair, which threatens us with the utmost danger. As long as we have a standing Army, we can have neither Trade nor Liberty. We expell'd King *James* because he would keep up an Army in time of Peace. We are now struggling with this Government about the same thing. And a certain Person, tho' he stand looking on a Crown at such a distance, as amounts to a Vision, is yet so-dazled with its brightness, as to make it his business to imploy the present Spirit and Vigor of the Nation in any thing rather than in breaking the Army. I value not Protestations; they are Nauseous things; I look only upon what Men do, and cannot forbear to think, that those, who after due consideration of our present Circumstances, shall in the Ensuing Session of Parliament, prefer any other Business to that of disbanding the Army, are Men seeking their own Interest, and not the good of their Country.

*I am Sir*

*Yours, &c.*

*October 13, 1700.*

# ALFRED T. BAKER

THE ALFRED T. BAKER COMPANY  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

Dear Sir,  
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. in relation to the above matter.  
I am sorry to hear that you are not satisfied with the results of the investigation.  
I have been very busy lately, and have not had time to devote to this matter as much as I would like to have.  
I am sure that you will understand my position.  
I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Yours truly,  
Alfred T. Baker

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Yours, etc.

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